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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
7 October 1952**

IMPENDING CABINET CRISIS IN INDONESIA: Two high ranking government officials have informed Ambassador Cochran that a cabinet crisis arising from widespread criticism of the Defense Ministry has become an acute threat. The chairmen of both the Masjumi and National Party, the two largest parties in the country, are trying to arrange a compromise to prevent a non-confidence vote on the Minister of Defense. Elements in their respective parties, however, are insistent upon purging the Defense Ministry and the Army of certain leaders, an action which probably would in any case result in the resignation of the Minister of Defense and quite possibly in the fall of the cabinet. President Sukarno has not revealed his position on the situation but is believed to be displeased with the present government.

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Comment: The cabinet has been in office for five months and is the third government in two years. Like all postwar Indonesian governments, its principal problem is the serious lack of internal security which prevails in large areas of the nation. Little or no progress in reducing lawlessness appears to have been made during the tenure of the present cabinet although the Defense Minister is believed to have taken necessary preliminary steps toward the Army's reorganization and training. The impending crisis is more the result of political rivalry, however, than of genuine concern over the country's security.

State Dept. review completed

Document No.	033
No Change in Class.	<input type="checkbox"/> 25X1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declassified	
Class. Changed To:	TS S C
Auth.:	HR 70-2
Date:	05 JUL 1978
By:	

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